



GAIL FARBER, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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January 20, 2015


The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

22 January 20, 2015


PATRICK OGAWA
ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**ADOPT THE WHITEMAN AIRPORT MASTER PLAN UPDATE AND
INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS AND
DEVELOPMENTS AT WHITEMAN AIRPORT,
PACOIMA AREA, CITY OF LOS ANGELES
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 3)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

These actions are to adopt the Whiteman Airport Master Plan Update and Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for future improvements and developments at Whiteman Airport, Pacoima Area, City of Los Angeles.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Adopt the Whiteman Airport Master Plan Update as guidance for future improvements and developments at Whiteman Airport.
2. Consider the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed Whiteman Airport Master Plan Update together with any comments received during the public review period, find on the basis of the whole record before the Board that the Whiteman Airport Master Plan Update will have no significant effects on the environment, find that the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the Board, adopt the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, and find that the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration is adequately designed to ensure compliance with the mitigation measures during the implementation of the projects.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the recommended actions is to adopt the Whiteman Airport Master Plan Update for Whiteman Airport and fulfill the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) by adopting the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) and the Errata. The full master plan update, including the Executive Summary and Airport Layout Plan, Exhibit A, are available at http://dpw.lacounty.gov/avi/airports/documents/Whiteman_MP.pd. The IS/MND is available at <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/avi/airports/documents/WHP%20IS%20MND.pdf>. Copies of these documents are also available at the Department of Public Works, Aviation Division.

The master plan update is a 20-year planning document that provides guidance for making future airport improvements. The master plan update forecasts aviation demand and corresponding aircraft operations at the airport. To address forecasted aviation demand, it also describes planned improvements over 5-year incremental phases that would occur within airport property and would not necessitate any additional land outside the airport. The proposed projects include improvements to the airport runway and taxiway system, reconfiguration of existing roadways within the airport property, construction of a new aircraft tie-down parking area, demolition of the existing terminal facility, construction of conventional hangars, upgrade of the apron lighting/security camera system, and construction of hangars in the helicopter operations area.

The Board is being asked to approve the master plan update for implementation. We will file a notice of determination in accordance with the requirements of Section 21152 of the California Public Resources Code.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The Countywide Strategic Plan directs the provisions of Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability (Goal 1) and Integrated Services Delivery (Goal 3). Implementation of the recommended actions will authorize Public Works to implement the master plan update, which will provide improved and more accommodating facilities and will support quality public works infrastructure services to the communities.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County General Fund.

The estimated total cost to complete the recommended projects over 20 years is \$42 million. Financing the projects consists of two basic elements: the capital improvement costs associated with the recommended development and the staging of development and improvement costs. It is anticipated that the master plan capital improvement program will be funded by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Improvement Program grants (\$20.6 million – 49.1 percent of the total); State grants (\$197,000 – 0.5 percent of the total); private capital (\$12.7 million – 30.2 percent of the total); and the Aviation Enterprise Fund contributions (\$8.5 million - 20.3 percent of the total).

The construction contracts will be advertised for bids for each phase of the project at later dates, contingent upon the Board's approval of these actions and availability of funding. Sufficient funds to finance the County's obligations will be available in the Aviation Enterprise Fund and will be requested through the annual budget process.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The purpose of the project is to update the master plan for airport improvements. The master plan update and resulting capital improvement program are supported by the FAA. The master plan update was completed by AECOM in accordance with FAA Advisory Circular 150/5100-14D – "Architectural, Engineering, and Planning Consultant Services for Airport Grant Projects."

AECOM conducted three meetings with the airport tenants/stakeholders, which provided opportunities for tenant/stakeholder input. Two of these meetings were held at the regularly scheduled Aviation Commission meetings. One additional meeting was held in an open house format. The focus of that meeting was to involve the public, including stakeholders, City officials, residents, the FAA, the California Department of Transportation, nearby businesses affected by the airport, and any other community members who wished to participate.

As the lead agency, Public Works conducted an environmental impact analysis for the project consistent with CEQA requirements. The IS/MND of environmental factors indicated that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment with the incorporation of mitigation measures. Therefore, in accordance with the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by the Board on November 17, 1987, an IS/MND was prepared and circulated for public review.

The master plan update study was reviewed by the Regional Planning Department and found to be consistent with the County general plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The IS/MND identified biological resources as one potential significant effect of the projects. Prior to the release of the IS/MND for public review, project revisions were made or agreed to which would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur as follows:

Biological resources: A biological assessment conducted by a qualified biologist for the undeveloped hillside of the project site includes the assessment of occurrence and potential occurrence of sensitive biological resources within the area of the project locations. The assessment identified suitable habitat to potentially support the sensitive wildlife including the Coast Horned Lizard and native breeding birds. As a result of these findings, either preconstruction surveys, focused surveys, or both will be conducted by a qualified biologist for these species prior to project construction.

A public notice was published in the Los Angeles Daily News on August 22, 2011, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21092 and posted at the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk pursuant to Section 21092.3. Copies of the IS/MND were provided to the Pacoima and Lake View Terrace libraries and made available at Public Works for public review. Notices regarding the availability of the draft IS/MND were also mailed to residents within the vicinity of the project. There were no organizations or individuals who previously requested a notice. Comments were received from resident Ms. Patricia Martinez, the California Department of Transportation, the Regional Planning Department, the California Native American Heritage Commission, and the State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research. Responses to these comments are included as Section 7 of the IS/MND and were sent to these agencies pursuant to Section 21092.5.

The IS/MND was also reviewed by County Counsel prior to sending it to the Board for approval and adoption. County Counsel determined that further revisions to the document were necessary. The revisions included corrections to the IS/MND, which do not substantially revise the impact analysis of the draft IS/MND but instead, clarify or amplify aspects of the previously circulated document. The changes did not result in new significant effects requiring mitigation. Details of the revisions made in the IS/MND have been included as Section 8, Errata, of the IS/MND.

The documents and other materials constituting the record of the proceedings upon which the Board's decision is based on are located at Public Works, Programs Development Division, 900 South Fremont Avenue, 11th Floor, Alhambra, CA 91803. The custodian of such documents and materials is the Environmental Planning and Assessments Section of Public Works.

The proposed projects within the master plan update are not exempt from payment of a fee to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife pursuant to Section 711.4 of the Fish and Wildlife Code to defray the costs of fish and wildlife protection and management incurred by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Upon the Board's adoption of the IS/MND, Public Works will file a notice of determination in accordance with Section 21152(a) of the California Public Resources Code and pay the required filing and processing fees with the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk in the amount of \$2,285.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Adoption of this master plan update will cause no impact on current services. It serves as the launching point from which the Airport Capital Improvement Plan will be implemented. The impact of each future project will be independently analyzed and reported when the respective projects are ready to be presented to the Board for approval.

CONCLUSION

Please return three adopted copies to the Department of Public Works, Aviation Division. Also, please forward one adopted copy of this letter to the Auditor-Controller, General Claims Division.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gail Farber". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

GAIL FARBER

Director

GF:RLS:pmd

c: Auditor-Controller
Chief Executive Office (Rita Robinson)
county Counsel (Adrienne Byers, Lauren Dods)
Executive Office